

# Understanding inspections in schools: A guide for parents and carers

Estyn is responsible for inspecting a wide range of education and training provision in Wales, and will soon be inspecting your child's school.

## How do inspectors take account of my views of the school?

Estyn wants to know your views on the school. You can do this by:

- **completing an online questionnaire** via the direct link provided by the school or by going to <https://vir.estyn.gov.uk>, clicking on 'complete a parent questionnaire' and inputting 13296. The questionnaires will be available until 05/04/2019
- **attending a meeting with inspectors.** The school will inform you of the date and time.

If you have any difficulties in accessing or completing the questionnaire, hard copies are available from your school or Estyn on request. Return hard copies directly using the freepost facility or 'In Confidence' via your school no later than 02/04/2019.

## How will an inspection benefit my child?

An inspection tells you about the standards and quality at your child's school. It gives the school an expert view on its work, outlining what it does well and helps it to improve.

## Who inspects the school?

The inspection team is led by a Reporting Inspector who has considerable experience of teaching and education. Each inspection team also includes a peer inspector. Peer inspectors are headteachers or senior managers from a similar type of school. Each school may nominate someone to liaise directly with the inspection team to keep the inspectors informed about the school and its work.

## How will the school be inspected?

Inspectors follow Estyn's inspection guidance. They will use the school's self-evaluation report as their starting-point.

## How will inspectors take account of my child's view of the school?

During the inspection, inspectors will ask groups of children how they feel about the school, their work and how well they are getting on. A sample of learners will complete an online questionnaire before the inspection.

## How will I know the inspectors' views on the school?

Inspection reports are published on the Estyn website 45 working days after the start of the inspection. The governing body will also send you details of the report.

## What will be included within the report?

The report will have overall judgements on:

- standards
- wellbeing and attitudes to learning
- teaching and learning experiences
- care, support and guidance
- leadership and management

Inspectors use a four-point scale when making these judgements:

**Excellent:** Very strong, sustained performance and practice

**Good:** Strong features, although minor aspects may require improvement

**Adequate and needs improvement:** Strengths outweigh weaknesses, but important aspects require improvement

**Unsatisfactory and needs urgent**

**improvement:** Important weaknesses outweigh strengths

## What happens after an inspection?

If a school fully meets the regulatory requirements of the Independent School Standards (Wales) Regulations 2003, they should include information in their school development plan about how they are planning to address the recommendations in the inspection report.

Where a school fails to comply with any of the regulatory requirements of the standards, they will be required to submit an action plan to Welsh Government within a specified period of time. Estyn will review the progress the school has made, normally within a year, to check compliance with the standards.

## How can I contact Estyn?

**Address:** Freepost ESTYN

**Email:** [ic@estyn.gov.wales](mailto:ic@estyn.gov.wales)

**Tel:** 02920 446446

**Feedback about inspections:**

[feedback@estyn.gov.wales](mailto:feedback@estyn.gov.wales)



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Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Education and Training in Wales

For further information on Estyn please visit our  
website - <http://www.estyn.gov.wales>